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# Curios and Relics

## Clothing

### Tailor Tools for Inaugural Suit

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# Kalamazoo Public Museum

315 SOUTH ROSE • KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49006

Alexis A. Praus, Director

Ruth Howard, Curator of Education

Corwin Rife, Curator of Exhibits

Patricia G. Michael, Registrar

Telephone FI 5-7092

September 25, 1970

Dr. Gerald McMurtry  
Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

In looking over your last issue of Lincoln Lore, it has occurred to me that the following may appeal to you as a small item for the publication.

Some time ago, we received the shears and chalk (soapstone) used in making Lincoln's inaugural suit. Also, we have an old newspaper clipping featuring the above and Abner Wilkenson's daughter.

Personal regards from,

Yours sincerely,

Alexis A. Praus  
Director

\* TITUS TAYLOR  
AAP/pgm

*Clothing  
(Lincoln Inaugural)*

September 30, 1970

Mr. Alexis A. Praus, Director  
Kalamazoo Public Museum  
315 South Rose  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006

Dear Mr. Praus:

I was pleased to have your letter of September 28th and to learn of the new Lincoln relic that your museum has acquired, namely; the shears and chalk (soapstone) used in making Lincoln's inaugural suit.

It is good that you have the old newspaper clipping featuring the above and the name of Abner Wilkenson the tailor.

We will place your letter in our files and someday we may want more information about the making of Lincoln's inaugural suit of clothes.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cv rw

